

**Formation**

STEM	+	ENDING
drop -ons from <i>nous</i> form of present indicative	+	-ant

ex: nous regardons  
regard- + -ant = *regardant*

EXCEPTIONS: 3 verbs have irregular stems.

être	=	<b>étant</b>
avoir	=	<b>ayant</b>
savoir	=	<b>sachant</b>

**NOTE:** Object pronouns come before the present participle.

ex: Je n'ai pas vu Nathalie.  
*Ne **la** voyant pas, je lui ai téléphoné.*

**NOTE:** Reflexive pronouns still represent same person as subject.

ex: En **me** dépêchant, je suis tombé. (se dépêcher)

**Use**

1. as a VERB (use *en* + present participle)

J'étudie en écoutant la radio. *I study while listening to the radio. (simultaneity)*

Eric apprend le russe en écoutant des CDs *Eric is learning Russian by listening to CDs.  
(means or method = HOW)*

Anne répond en souriant. *Anne answers smiling/with a smile. (manner)*

(use present participle by itself)

Etant fatigués, nous ne sommes pas sortis. *Being tired, we didn't go out. (reason why)*

Elle est arrivée à l'aéroport portant ses valises. *She arrived at the airport carrying her suitcases.  
(circumstances)*

2. as a VERBAL ADJECTIVE (don't forget to make agreement as you do with all adjectives)

Paul est un garçon amusant. *Paul is a funny boy.*

Vous posez des questions troublantes. *You are raising troubling questions.*

**Formation***ayant* or *étant*

+

past participle

**example:***Ayant fini* mes devoirs, je me suis couchée.

Having finished my homework . . .

*Étant parti* de chez toi, je suis rentré chez moi.

Having left your house. . .

**Use**

To indicate that one of two actions was completed earlier than the other.

## French Perfect Participle ~ Passé composé du participe présent

The French perfect participle is used to describe a condition existing in the past or an action that took place right before another action. It is equivalent to "having + past participle" in English, but as this construction can be somewhat awkward, it's often reworded. The perfect participle is similar to the *après* + [past infinitive](#) construction:

*Ayant fait mes devoirs, j'ai regardé la télé. (Après avoir fait mes devoirs...)*

Having finished my homework, I watched TV. / Since I had finished my homework.... / After finishing my homework....

*Étant partie très tôt, elle a dû conduire seule. (Après être partie très tôt...)*

Having left very early, she had to drive alone. / Because she left very early....

However, unlike the past infinitive, the present perfect participle can have a different subject than the main clause:

*Ses enfants ayant grandi, Chantal est rentrée à l'école.*

Her kids grown, Chantal went back to school. / Her kids having grown...

*Mon père étant parti, j'ai pleuré.*

My father gone, I cried. / My father having left...